



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

OCT 21 2005

Honorable James P. Moran
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4608

Dear Representative Moran:

Thank you for your letter dated September 29, 2005 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning air emissions from Mirant's Potomac River Power Plant located in Alexandria, Virginia.

EPA has been actively involved in the evaluation of the health and safety issues caused by the operation of the coal-fired boiler units at the Potomac River plant for some time. The results of a Downwash Modeling Study, first received by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) in late August 2005, indicated substantial modeled exceedances of the sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have occurred. EPA realizes the complexity of the technical and air dispersion modeling evaluations would be significant, and has assigned appropriate qualified technical personnel to this effort. Subsequently, EPA has been actively engaged in providing technical support to the VADEQ during their evaluation of the air dispersion modeling conducted by Mirant, including ongoing reduced operational scenarios currently being evaluated by Mirant engineers and modelers.

EPA believes that the health and safety of the local residents near the Potomac River plant is of paramount concern, and I can assure you that EPA will not support any continued full or partial operation of the Potomac River plant without verification from EPA experts that there will not be any modeled exceedances of the NAAQS caused by emissions from the plant.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Stephanie Branche, Virginia Liaison, at 215-814-5556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Donald S. Welsh", is positioned above the typed name.

Donald S. Welsh
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Robert Burnley
Director, VADEQ



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